

**CLAIMS**

I claim:

1. A weather resistant dock walkway, comprising:

a deck substructure;

a deck platform disposed upon the substructure, wherein the deck platform comprises a plurality of elongated planks each with a first and second opposite ends, the planks are rotatable between a horizontal position and a vertical position, and are arranged side-by-side above the substructure; and

whereby, the planks are responsive to contact with a body of water such that the planks rotate from a horizontal position to a vertical position to enable surging water to circulate freely between the vertical planks to prevent surge damage to the weather resistant dock walkway.

2. The weather resistant dock walkway according to claim 1, further comprising a ratchet system responsive to the position of the planks such that when the planks adopt a vertical position they are locked in the vertical position by the ratchet system.

3. The weather resistant dock walkway according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of piles to support the weather resistant dock walkway.

4. The weather resistant dock walkway according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of floats to support the weather resistant dock walkway.

5. A weather resistant dock walkway, comprising:

a deck substructure of overall rectangular shape with a first and second opposite ends, and a first and second opposite lateral sides;

a deck platform disposed upon the substructure, wherein the deck platform comprises a plurality of elongated planks each with a first and second opposite ends, and are arranged side-by-side above the substructure, the opposite ends of the planks are respectively operably connected to a first and second elongated member, and further wherein the opposite ends of the planks are respectively connected to the first and second opposite ends of the substructure in such fashion that the planks are able to rotate between a horizontal and a vertical position;

a ratchet system having a lever, wherein the ratchet system locks the planks in a vertical position upon rotation of the planks to a vertical position and which requires human intervention to unlock the planks by moving the lever to allow the planks to return to a horizontal position; and

whereby, the planks are responsive to contact with a body of water such that the planks rotate collectively from a horizontal position to a vertical position and lock in the

vertical position under the influence of the ratchet system to enable surging water to circulate freely between the vertical planks to prevent surge damage to the weather resistant dock walkway.

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